the Link

Concordia's Independent Newspaper

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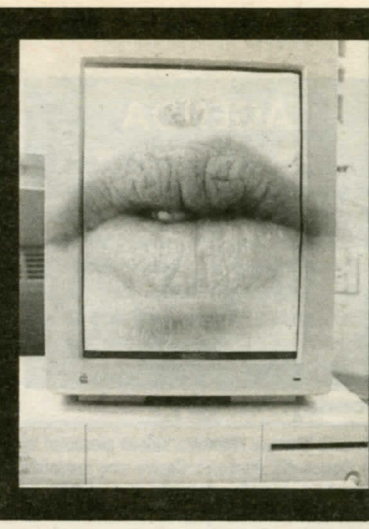
Concordia University — Montreal, Quebec

INSIDE

Getting "picked up" in cyberspace is not every woman's idea of a good time on-line (pg 4-5)



Groundbreaking electronic journal is left in limbo: *Concordia administration asks if the project is "worthwhile"*

by Jennifer Ditchburn

An innovative academic journal, produced at Concordia and accessible through the Internet, might become another victim of budget cuts.

CTheory, formerly known as the Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory, was founded in 1981 through the Political Science department. Two years ago it was put on-line, and is currently read by scholars and students in 27 countries through the World Wide Web.

CTheory editors Arthur and Marilouise Kroker were informed by Concordia's administration that the salary allocated to the journal's list server manager would be frozen. The Kroker's say that without a salaried worker to oversee the technical operations *CTheory* cannot survive.

"*CTheory* is completely the future of academic work, and I think that students realize this faster than the administration," said Arthur Kroker, Political Science professor and Concordia's resident Internet guru.

Touted as "an international, electronic review of theory, technology and culture," The journal's articles range from book reviews to analyses of events and cultural phenomena. Subscribers are able to discuss the material interactively through the Internet, and subjects touched upon in the articles are cross-referenced to other sources in the Internet.

Since hearing about the funding freeze, the Krokers sent out a notice over the Internet informing their readers about their situation. In less than a week *CTheory* has received over 300 letters from university deans, professors, artists, journalists and students from around the world.

"The Journal is known throughout the world, and for $18,000 it's a very cheap way of getting promotion [for Concordia]," said Marilouise Kroker. "The problem is that the people in the administration don't know what we're doing—they haven't seen it on the Internet and a print-out isn't the same."

The journal has a much-lauded editorial board, which includes postmodern icons such as writers Bruce Sterling, Kathy Acker and Jean Baudrillard. The National Library of Canada has said it will be using *CTheory*'s format as a prototype for their future archiving system.

Supporters have praised the journal for going electronic since it enables thousands of people to read articles for free, from anywhere in the world, immediately.

photo by Julian Saucier

Arthur Kroker, on-line

"It's democratic accessibility for students and scholars. It's intellectual excellence and pluralism," said Arthur Kroker. "This is possibility that a lot of people wanted from the Internet and now it's happening."

Dean of Arts and Science Gail Valaskakis has expressed her support for the journal, and will be recommending to the administration that the salary position be reinstated. Until then, the job of list server manager will be paid as a "casual labour" position. All other people currently working at *CTheory* do so as volunteers.

Vice-rector academic Robert Parker could not be reached for comment.

Con U health services reassures students

by Derek Fong

Nancy Torbit understands why people are concerned about the streptococcus A bacterium, but as the director of Concordia Health Services, she is advising people to stay calm about it.

> ***"I understand people getting afraid," —Nancy Torbit***

Over a hundred phone calls have flooded health services since Mary Tarlton, a long-standing employee of the office of the registrar passed away last Saturday. Her death is believed to have been caused by complications related to the streptococcus A bacterium.

The bacterium has been brought to the forefront in the media after a strain of strep A was contracted by Bloc Quebecois leader Lucien Bouchard. However, the strain that killed Tarlton was not the flesh-eating disease that caused Bouchard to lose his leg. The strain of the bacterium that Tarlton contracted produces dangerous toxins that circulate in the blood, and in her case, were fatal.

"I understand people getting afraid," said Torbit. But she stresses, "I don't think (people) need to get worried."

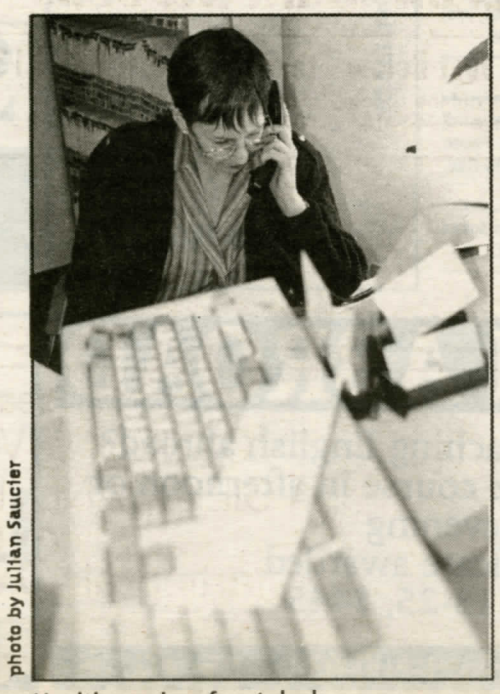


photo by Julian Saucier

Health services front desk

Strep A is a common bacterium which is usually harmless. In most cases, it will only cause sore throat or tonsillitis. In very rare cases, the bacterium may become virulent and cause severe infections.

"Not everybody dies from this," Catherine Lounsbury of Health Services said. "There's no more strep now than there was 100 years ago," she continued.

Lounsbury said strep A can be contracted through kissing and sharing drinks with others. She said that people should practice basic hygiene to help avoid sickness.

But as an extra precaution Lounsbury advises students to get checked by a doctor if they have a persistently high fever, runny nose and prolonged sore throat or any other unusual symptoms.

Although the strain of the disease that Tarlton contracted is rare, it is common enough to show up in statistics.

Lounsbury said that about 5 per cent of Canadian adults and 20 per cent of children are carriers of the bacterium and may not even know it.

But she also cited statistics which suggest only one in a million people around the world contract annually the particular strain of strep A which killed Tarlton.

Health Services will be holding an information session next Monday morning in room H-620 starting at 11:00. Students are invited to attend and ask questions to specialists who will be present.

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*–Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Monday, February 6

Wimmin/ Womyn/ Women's Videos presented by the Concordia Women's Centre and feminists everywhere, featuring Calamity Jane at 6:30 pm and Adam's Rib at 8:00 pm, H-773. Info: 848-7431.

Movie Nite with the PSSA, featuring *The Deadly Game of Nations* at 12 pm, H-631 and *The Mission* at 8:30 pm, H537. $1.50 per movie.

Lupus & Sickle Cell Anemia, a health information seminar presented as a part of Black History Month. 4–6 pm. For information and location, call 848-3527 or drop by the Caribbean Students' Union office in H-508-1.

Self-Esteem & Safer Sex, a chance to learn about safer sex in a supportive, confidential and fun atmosphere. Information & Pre-registration: Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Tuesday, February 7

Help Make a Difference!! Sign and circulate a petition demanding a change in the wording of the Quebec Referendum question. All day, Hall Lobby. Continues to Feb. 10.

Free Tetanus Immunization Clinic at SGW and Loyola Health Services. Make sure your tetanus immunization is updated every 10 years. FREE. 9:30-11 am.

Movie Nite with the PSSA, featuring *Small is Beautiful: Impressions of Fritz Schumacker* at 12 pm, H-537 and *And the Band Played On* at 8:30 pm. $1.50 per film.

µCue Series 13.7 & 13.8 Electroacoustic Concerts. 8 pm, Loyola Concert Hall, Free.

Wednesday, February 8

Healthy Weights, a workshop presented by Health Services as part of Eating Disorders Awareness Week. 12 noon, H-653.

"Who Represents You?" a panel discussion featuring former NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin, former Conservative MP David MacDonald, Madeleine Parent of the National Action Committee & Monique Simard, Vice-President of the Parti Quebecois. 5:30 pm, de Seve Cinema, 1400 de Maisonneuve West.

WOMEN

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Coming Out/ Support Group (18 to 25 yrs). Meets every second Wednesday. Info: Project 10, 989-4585 (1 to 5 pm).

SOS Violence conjugale. 24 hour crisis intervention and shelter referral. 873-9010.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. To register call: 284-1212.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 954-0170, Basia.

Women's Spirituality: Irrepressible Spirit A series of videos and discussions exploring women's perspectives and experiences within various religious traditions. Tuesdays from 4:15-6 pm, Z-105.

Committee Against Human Life International: Women interested in planning a protest against the Montreal conference of this racist, anti-Muslim, anti-semitic, homophobic, anti-choice organization can leave messages for the committee against Human Life International at the Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Minority Women in Academe: information sessions conducted by Dr. Shahrzad Mojab about her research project of the same name.Sessions also offer support for minority women. Info: Dr. Mojab, 848-2270.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-9354.

Free Films for Women / Wimmin / Womyn presented by the Concordia Women's Centre on Monday nights this semester. For dates, times and titles call the Centre at 848-7431.

Big Gals & Goddesses, wanna talk? A discussion group for big women - Whether you wear dresses or overalls, nylons or not. For info, call Anuska at the Women's Centre: 848-7431.

ACADEMIC

Term Papers and written assignments? We can help you get started, organize ideas, identify problem areas. Counselling & Development: 848-3545.

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Self-Knowing & Communication, a three-part afternoon workshop series to explore self-understanding, giving and receiving feedback, conflict styles an communication skills, starting Feb. 10. Pre-registration Info: Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535.

Sex and Spirit Collective a social justice group attempting to heal the divisions between our sexual and spiritual identities. Thursdays 4-6 pm, 2090 Mackay.

Parents Without Custody is a support group for separated or divorced parents without custody of their children. Call Nancy Montgomery,937-5351, local 48 to register.

Peer Helpers is a free, confidential listening service of students helping students. 2090 Mackay St. Info: 848-2859.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting". Wednesdays 12-1 pm, Annex Z. Info: Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group for men, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. For information, call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Start Keeping a Budget: Financial Aid & Awards offers personal budgeting information sessions on Mondays at 3 pm & Tuesdays at 11am. Please sign up in advance in the Financial Aid office LB -085.

"Living On My Own" a program for people planning to live on their own for the first time. Info: Bruce, Head & Hands: 481-0277 or 481-3643.

MEDIA

Extra-rated Radio Show seeks spoken word/ poetry/ opinion submissions to read on air. Please drop them off at the station addressed to Rae. Information: 931-1880, 933-1418. No limits.

CRSG, downtown student radio station seeks groovy people for all kinds of jobs. 848-7401.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7474.

HEALTH

Non-Nominal HIV Testing. The request for the test as well as the result are known only to your doctor. Info: Health Services, 848-3565, 848-3575.

Women and safer sex: A series of two-hour workshops to explore some of the issues that affect our choices about safer sex, including self-esteem, sexuality, and body image. Info: Leah or Diana, Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

GENERAL

Yellow Door Elderly Project needs volunteers to accompany seniors to appointments. Also looking for dog walkers who can assist seniors in the McGill Ghetto. Info: 398-6243.

Compeer Montreal, a community service which provides friendship and support to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program , in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Info: Peter Coté, 848-3586, Matti Terho, 848-3590

Outreach Experience: participants will work with children, teens, the poor or the sick. The activity and amount of time will depend on your interests and abilities. Information: Michelina Bertone SSA, 848-3591.

Meals On Wheels Program is seeking volunteers to assist in preparing and delivering home cooked meals for seniors living independently at home. Info: Rona 937-9471 (155)

Care to listen to those who need to talk? Shalom line will be accepting new volunteers into their winter training program which starts in February Call Suzanne Herscovitch at 735-3541, ext. 3380.

STUDENT CLUBS

Indigenous Peoples International, a native solidarity group on campus meets every Wednesday, 7 pm, P-203. Info: 848-7443.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Information: 848-7414

Latin American Students Organization invites all interested students to visit their offices. 2010 Mackay, Rm. 02. Info: 848-3532.

International Socialists Students' Association If you'd like to become a member, or want information about meetings, actions, etc. Contact: 521-1983.

Concordia Outdoors Club's new office hours are Fridays between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

Concordia Chemistry & Biochemistry Students Assoc. is back and invites students to take advantage of its many new services. 2020 Mackay,Rm. 306 or call 848-7417.

Interested in paganism & witchcraft? Concordia Pagan Society is looking for new members. Come check us out every Monday night 9pm in the Hive.

advertise

848-7406

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

Success to all students! WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, résumés, access forms, applications, editing of grammar. 24 years experience—both languages, 7 days a week. $1.75/double-spaced page. 2 streets away, Peel. Paulette or Roxanne, 288-9638, 288-0016.

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Typing Tom, 738-1171.

Typing - $1,25/page. WP 5.1 , Pick up, deliver, downtown/Loyola. 482-2816. Walter.

Typing–W.P. 5.1, laser printer, spelling, minor editing. $1.50/ page. 487-5787.

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Singing Lessons: Classical technique frees your natural voice. Experienced teacher, reasonable rates. all musical styles. 271-8322.

Mathematics, statistics, computer science tutor. 278-7499.

FOR SALE or RENT

Furniture Sale: round table (white melamine), shelf/ wall unit (white), soft-touch couch (mint green) and halogen lamp. Reasonable prices. Call 845-5991 for information.

Perfect for Students!!! Double futon & base, natural pine wood, 6 inch mattress, multicolored. Guaranteed new, $150. Tel: 735-7009.

Book Sale: 50% off on most books at the Academic and General Bookshop, 385 Sherbrooke St. West. 849-3833. Owner is retiring at the end of March.

Parking: 2 cars (small). Mackay & Ste-Catherine. $70 (monthly) each. 935-3113.

WANTED

Wanted to buy: used computer. Pager, 936-7228.

APARTMENTS

Lofts in Old Montreal, close to Metro Victoria. Heated, sprinklered, high ceilings, low rent. 861-3787.

RECREATION

Cuba Spring Break only $685! Airfare, visa, hotel, transfers to hotel and back. Sunny Varadero. 2 per room. 10 universities invited, Feb. 19-26. Bookings, 935-6029, 989-1017.

HELP WANTED

Swim Director & Instructors, Waterski, Windsurf, Sail, Canoe, Judo, Gymnastics, Tennis, Photography, Archery, Art, Pottery, Beadmaking, Drama, Keyboardist, Jazz dance. Fax resume (514) 481-7863, Pripstein's Camp 5253 Decarie #333, Montreal H3W 3C3.

Seeking first-generation Canadians for Documentary Television Project. Both parents should be from same country. For information, call Hanna at 528-0759.

Tree Planting: BC Spring '95. Experienced foreman seeking experienced planters or dedicated rookies. Call Joe weekdays 12-5pm. 278-4645, Leave message.

WANTED

Wanted: Talented writers for short essays. Please call Valerie, 737-7410.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Run your own business, gain valuable business experience while building your resumé. Earn up to $10,000 (25 jobs), high demand product, irrigation sales and installation. The ideal opportunity: vehicle required. Call Student Sprinklers at 1-800-265-7691.

Career Opportunity: As a representative for one of Canada's leading insurance companies, we seek university graduates with work experience. Excellent training, fringe benefits, unlimited income potential and advancement opportunities. Resumés to: Kent and Barb Elvidge, 2 Place Alexis Nihon, Suite 1200, Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 3C1. Fax: 939-1940.

GENERAL

Graduate Student get-togethers with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students this year on an informal basis. A session has been arranged for this purpose from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at our Graduate Administration Offices, 2145 Mackay Street, on Monday, February 13, 1995. Our space is limited. Please reserve one of the above dates by contacting Ms. Kali Sakell at 848-3803. We look forward to seeing you.

LOST

Gold-imitation oval-shaped dangling earring with flower design.If found, call Shira: 488-7673.

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clean ink

by Genevieve Napier

Every printed piece of paper, every newspaper and magazine, represents not only the depletion of the earth's forest but also a sizable increase in toxic waste, due to hazardous inks.

Now the latest contribution to the greening of the printing industry, a "green ink" called enviro inks, could greatly reduce the amount of toxic by-products caused by the printing process.

Riding a consumer sustained environmentally conscious trend marketers are eager to cash in on, enviro inks are vegetable-based inks which provide a non-toxic, biodegradable alternative to conventional inks.

The inks are so far removed from traditional inks that one of its developers, Gerry Sugerman, equates the difference to driving a car 14 million miles, instead of 6000, to produce one pound of toxic waste.

Most of conventional inks' environmental failings are adressed by the vegetable-based inks, without sacrificing the print quality to which the industry is accustomed.

While traditional inks are based on petroleum, a non-renewable resource, the new inks are based on vegetable oils.

Although soya-based inks employ renewable materials, they have not completely eliminated some of the toxic compounds traditionally associated with ink such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or heavy metal driers (drying agents). When ink dries the VOCs emit hazardous toxic fumes.

Conventional, petroleum-based inks contain 30 to 35 per cent VOCs and soya-based inks contain around 25 per cent VOCs, but, enviro inks have less than one per cent VOCs.

The inks are "effectively VOC-free and health-wise much safer," according to Claude Payette of the Occupational Health and Safety Association for the Printing Allied Fields.

The use of heavy metal driers, containing known carcinogens such as cobalt and manganese, employed to hasten drying time, also contribute to environmental pollution and are responsible for the high incidence of liver and kidney disease among press operators.

Due to the presence of the drying agents, inks tend to form a "skin" which must be removed. The skin, containing these carcinogens, must then be disposed of as toxic waste.

"In the past any ink that did not produce this kind of waste didn't work. If it didn't do this [produce the waste] it didn't dry," said Sugerman.

Nevertheless, enviro inks do not employ heavy metal driers as drying agents, unlike conventional and soya-based inks, and tests show it dries at a comparable rate.

Printers who have used the inks are quick to add that in addition to the health benefits of the inks themselves, the solvent used to clean them off their rollers are also far less toxic than solvents used to clean off traditional inks.

The New Jersey based Pinnacle Technologies, headed by Andre Chalem, and responsible for developing enviro inks has developed a compatible cleaning agent. The cleaning agent, like the ink, is based on vegetable oil and is also biodegradable.

"The biggest problem with conventional ink lies with the cleaning solvent, this solvent is revolutionary," says Benoit Pothier, Director of Printing Services at Ahuntsic college.

At McGill Printing Services press operators are using the cleaning detergent without wearing gloves and have not developed the skin rashes usually associated with conventional cleaning agents, according to director Gerard Charbonneau.

But, Payette of the Occupational Health and Safety Association for the Printing Allied Fields.explains that despite the lack of reactive effects, the detergent has not yet been tested or analyzed by his association.

Although he is reserving his final judgement on the detergent he agrees that the ink's compatibility with alternative vegetable cleaning agents is a large part of the ink's appeal.

The ability to manipulate the products with bare hands is part of the appeal for those working with it, as is the fact that the inks don't have an unpleasant odor. "The first thing I did was put my nose in the can," said Charbonneau.

Since that moment, two months ago, McGill Printing has started replacing its supplies with Enviro Ink.

Although the inks are costlier than traditional inks, Charbonneau feels he's getting "double the mileage because it is 100 per cent ink, not part ink, part VOCs," on top of the fact that none of it is wasted due to skinning.

After seven months on the market in Quebec, enviro inks is beginning to get some recognition, but not all the kinks have been ironed out according to Pothier.

One of the main problems is that the inks don't de-ink easily to allow for paper recycling, but Pothier allows that since de-inking techniques are tailored to conventional inks new techniques will have to be developed.

He feels the inks and their cleaning agents make a positive contribution in reducing the toxicity of the printing industry.

"They minimize the infringement on the biosphere and the earth's landmass," says Sugerman." The major obstacle to its market penetration is inertia, which can be equated with fear of change."

Con U out of cash for needy students

by Heather Ednie

Don't bother applying for an emergency loan from Concordia, because the funds have run dry.

Concordia offers emergency loans to students in dire situations, but because of insufficient funding, few students are able to take advantage of the service. Roger Côté, director of Financial Aid and Awards, said that at least 6,000 students apply for emergency loans per year. But most receive no help.

"The emergency loan fund runs out frequently," said Côté, "Demand always exceeds supply." He advises students who need assistance to look for resources outside the university, though he admits there are not many options.

Concordia student Olaf de Winter, who sought an emergency loan last Wednesday, was informed that there was no money left to assist him. He said he is discouraged and outraged.

graphic by Jason Mejia

"Concordia has one of the poorest student bodies in Canada, and its low budget for emergency loans is wrong," said de Winter.

Annually, $30,000 is contributed towards emergency loans from the university's operating budget. According to Côté, for a school of more than 24,000 students, that is not enough. Students seeking emergency loans usually need a minimum of $200, which allows the service to assist only 150 people.

Concordia is devising projects to raise money through donors for the emergency loan fund. Chris Hyde, from Concordia's Advancement Office, pointed to the proposed fundraising campaign for 1996 as an answer to Concordia's lacking service.

"In the table of needs for the capital campaign, we have a $1 million target for emergency loans," Hyde said.

Côté said that as Concordia's administration is planning to reduce the operating budget, the emergency loan budget will remain insufficient until a personal contributor or benefactor makes a large contribution to the fund.

It's become a reality watching students in need, as they struggle to balance surviving financially and performing academically said Côté.

"I wish we could do more," he said.

"Students are not very different from the rest of society, though perhaps they're even worse off. They lack the experience needed to get jobs, and the time to devote for both academics and employment."

Critics debate sovereignty process

by Shira Katz

At a cost of $660,000 to taxpayers, the Parti Québécois' commissions to discuss the draft bill on the sovereignty of Quebec will begin listening to Quebecers next week. But critics are already debating both the legitimacy of the process and the wording of the referendum question.

"I think the legitimacy of a cause is reflected in the tactics of its advocates. In other words, if it were a just and legitimate cause then they would ask a clear question," said Concordia Political Science professor Tim Thomas.

President of Alliance Quebec, Michael J. Hamelin agrees. At a news conference yesterday, he criticized the PQ's plan to sell Quebecers on the sovereignty issue.

"There is no room for alternative views," he said. "What these commissions are shaping up to be is the converted talking to the converted."

The Commission on Quebec's Future refutes the allegation, claiming that the commissions represent neutral bodies which will listen to all views.

"Commissions are impartial," said its Liaison with the Anglophone Community, Dermod Travis. "For anyone who agrees or disagrees, it's a chance to have your voice heard."

"And if opinions are not expressed before the commissions, then they will only listen to opinions that are being expressed," he added.

Seeking a direct referendum question

Critics are also concerned with the specific wording of the referendum question, which they say presupposes separation without clearly defining the Quebec government's position. The question, as found in the draft bill, reads as follows: "Are you in favour of the Act passed by the National Assembly declaring the sovereignty of Quebec? YES or NO."

"I think the current question is misleading," said Concordia student David Elsassy, who is encouraging students to sign a petition opposing the proposed referendum question. "We need people to be clear what they're voting on."

"We want to get a simplified question so that the layman in our society will understand the importance of the up-and-coming referendum," said Concordia student Jackie Herman, also working on the project.

In addition to the petition, Herman and Elsassy plan to distribute to the student body questionnaires which propose alternative questions to the one being proposed by the PQ government. Collected signatures on the petition will be sent to the Provincial "YES" committee next Thursday. The alternative questions with the most votes will be tabulated and sent to both the "YES" and "NO" committees, and to editors of newspapers in Montreal.

Hamelin of Alliance Quebec concurs that the referendum query is biased. According to him, it really means "Do you want Quebec to separate from Canada," as the first article of the bill states that "Quebec is a sovereign country".

Hamelin urged Quebecers to tear out page 4 of the draft bill booklet, and send one of the following messages along with it to their commissions: "No to Separation, or Quebec in Canada, That's It!"

But Travis of the Commission on Quebec's Future said that the question being proposed is up for discussion.

"The wording of the question is on the table," he said.

Exclusion of Anglos alleged

Another concern of Hamelin's is that the commissions will not listen to the voice of Anglophone Montreal.

Therefore, Alliance Quebec has begun to establish "listening posts" across Quebec. Hamelin explained that these post offices will allow Quebecers to air their views on the question 'why separate' which he said will not be discussed at the commissions.

"I think any group who says this process will exclude their opinions simply doesn't know what they're talking about," countered Travis. "I can tell you if anglophones choose not to participate, then the Montreal community will not be able to take their opinions into account," he added.

But Professor Thomas compared the commissions to the failed Bélanger-Campeau commission, "Travelling commissions are like a circus act. By using tactics of trickery, I think it will backfire. I think a lot of Quebecers will see through the tactic and vote accordingly."

Cybergrrrl's bogus IRC jour

Women traveling the cyber-void find g

from harassment

b

From cross-dressing and gender bending to idle chit-chat about fast cars and food, the monopoly on the Internet previously held by geeked-out net gurus is being shattered.

Although more women are making forays into cyberspace, they are still outnumbered by men. Of course, the widespread harassment of women on the net isn't helping to even out the numbers.

Some of the worst acts of male chauvinism and misogny is on Internet Relay Chat. IRC lets users around the world who are tapped into the net have on-screen conversations with each other about various topics. Users log onto different channels devoted to specific interests. An incredible information source, IRC can get you in touch with experts on various subjects.

But some men are just cruising the channels, looking to pick up women for net sex. Sex on IRC is much like phone sex, where people talk dirty to each other on channels separate from the general public. It usually includes a certain amount of one-handed, masturbatory typing.

Similar to IRC are chat Bulletin Board Systems (BBSes), systems that can sometimes be reached through the net or by dialling locally. Chat BBSes also have a tendency to draw a number of pick-up artists, as in the case of "Betty."

Betty had spoken to him twice before, under informal terms. He's a thirty-something year-old lonely computer geek in Boulder, Colorado who figures that he can score over miles of fibre-optic cable. They were talking about cooking. She told him that she's French.

<Desperado> When you come down to Boulder, I'll take you out.
<Betty> Yeah, next time I'm in the area.
<Desperado> Well what if I told you that I'd send you a plane ticket for Christmas?
<Betty> What?? I don't think so...

He starts to get pushy.

<Desperado> How do you know that you wouldn't like me?
<Betty> That's not the issue. I'm sorry.
<Desperado> C'mon.... Trust me, when you come down to Boulder, you'll fall in love with me.
<Betty> I don't think I want to come down to Boulder, sorry.
<Desperado> What? Are you afraid of meeting people over the Internet?
<Betty> Among other things. I don't know you.
<Desperado> Well, come on down!
<Betty> NO.

Others are not so subtle, opting for the direct approach.

<nuggets> i've gotta find sum pussy outside
<raiders> nuggets, big tits, big fucking asses
<nuggets> u like wet pussy raiders?
<Nymphoman> any women out here?
<iky> anyone wanna lick my black dick?

"Betty", a 22-year-old Arts student at Concordia, discovered the uses of her Internet account in September after hearing all the hype on the "information superhighway." With next to no previous knowledge about computers, she's developed a hands-on knowledge of Internet. Betty is one of the hordes of cyberwomen who are taking the Net by storm, replacing generations of male cybergeeks who previously laid claim to the vast areas of bandwidth.

The sex of the identity that the user adopts can play a large role in how they're perceived and treated on IRC. Often, the first questions to a new member to a channel is what gender they are, and if they're a woman, what they look like and their measurements.

Some guys even log into IRC with a female user ID, posing as a woman. Usually shy or quiet, they wouldn't get talked to as men. As women they receive a lot more.

"If you log on with non-gender specific names, you get ignored," said Debbie MacDonald, a 34 year old veteran operator of Permanent Vacation BBS in Montreal. "The males and the females ignore you." She has noticed guys log onto her BBSes as women to meet other women." It's really stupid. The same guys try the same shtick over again, log on with feminine characters and then ask for e-mail from women in a decidedly aggressive way.."

I tried logging into IRC with different names. I'm still a "newbie" at this, and I log in with the genderless name of 'clo.'

*****clo has joined channel #masseur1.**
<clo> Hi.
***FunOne* Hi, babe. Where are you from?**
<clo> Canada... umm.. you on the masseur1 channel? I'm trying to figure out a few techniques for shoulder blades without using oil.
***FunOne* Nope, honey, I'm on a private channel but I saw ya.. soo... whaddaya look like, eh?? You cute Canadian gals...**

I have no response to that.

***FunOne* Hey, R U ignoring me?**
<clo> Lookie here, I'm busy.
***FunOne* Fine, yer probably ugly anyway, bitch.**
***frat-boy* Hey baby, want some action??**

I decide it's time to make my exit. But on another channel I use a female user ID called TankGrrrl. And then the message flooding begins.

<Hot4U> Hi! So, how cold is up there in Canada?
<TankGrrrl> Freezing.
<Hot4U> So, want me to come on over and warm you up baby?

<DrLove> Hi babe, tell me what your desires are, the Love Doctor's here.

Oh great, Barry White on-line.

<Stud> Hey, babe, wanna blow me?
<Joo> Hey!!! So what do you look like?

This channel, by the way, a sex channel that I was lurking about in search

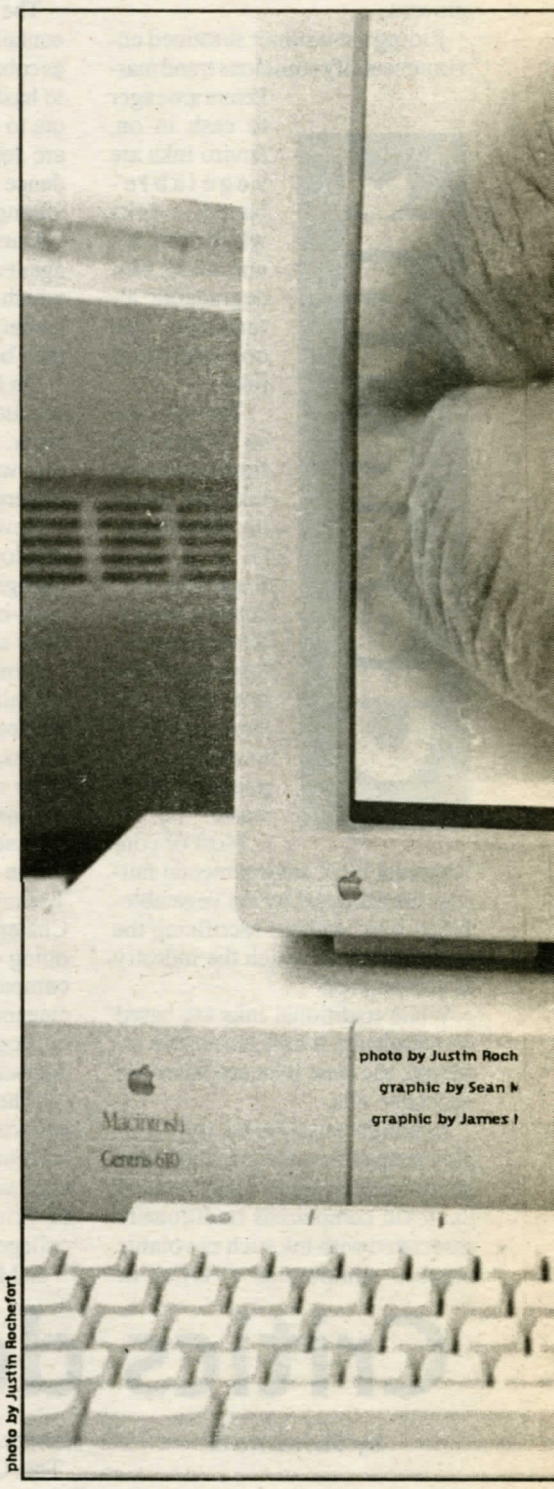


photo by Justin Rochefort

graphic by Sean Moore

of a few 3 am laughs was attended by MIT students I have seen. The worse with different names and try to avoid down on another channel.

But there is a small comfort to our More and more women have ente discussion groups like the philosoph about your bra size.

On the interactive BBSes they usu harassment except for a few that state be tolerated. This can go either way. I sports fans and you want to chat abou for even trying to break from the sac

But things are improving. As well a there are also female BBS operators

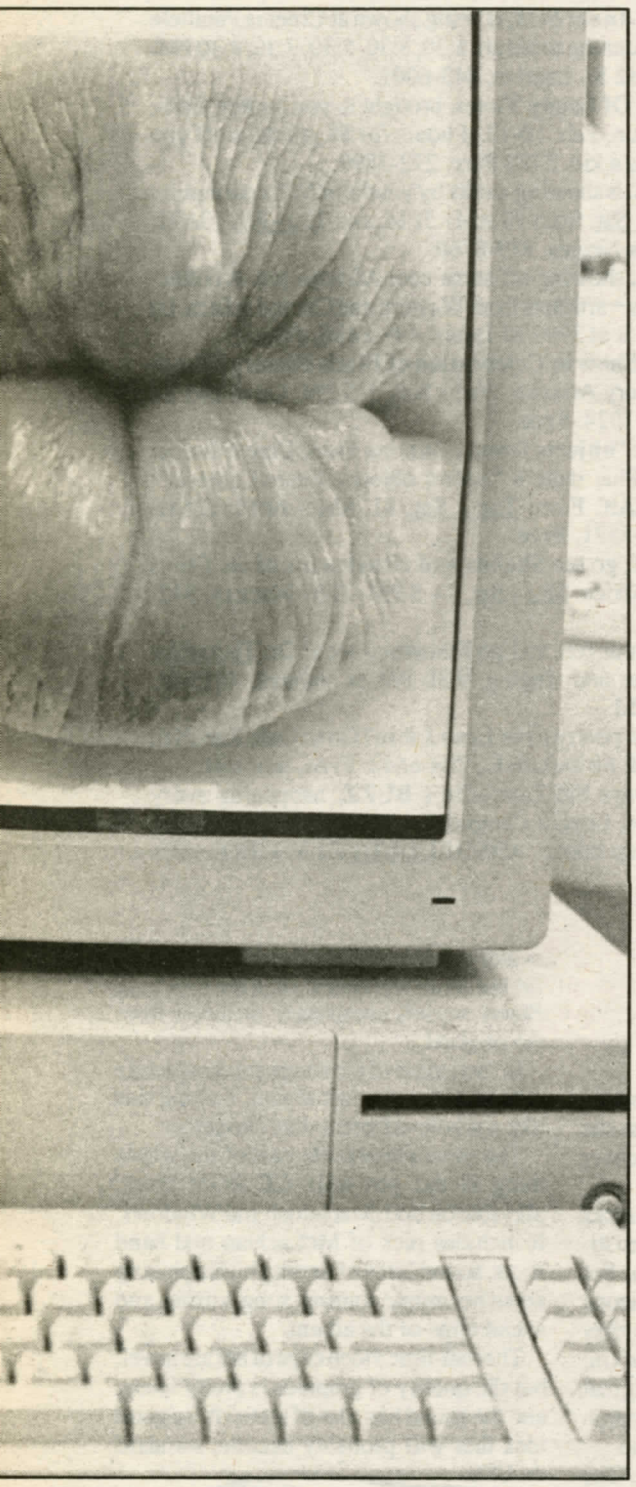
MacDonald said that when she wa figure out what's what on-line, and h with a lot of testosterone-laced band

"In the past two years, I've seen m on, chances were that I was the only w and a lot of women were initially turn

"MacDonald says it boils down to r your life off the screen. You have to

rney
eek flesh is no insulation

by Anuska Garcia



the highest rate of McGill, Harvard and
part is that, even after you surf channels
d the net.schlemiels, they can track you

relatively small number on the Internet.
ered into discussion groups. And on
ny channel on IRC, no one cares a fig

ally don't have any specific rules about
that any corrosive behaviour would not
f you're stuck in a channel full of raging
ut a few issues you might get kicked off
cred subject of the superbowl.
s those women who are coming on-line,
springing up.
s a newbie on the BBS scene, trying to
ow to establish her own BBS, she's met
lwidth. But things are changing.
ore women log on. When I first logged
woman at that time. There's a lot of hate
ed off but now they're more aggressive.
not letting the words on the screen affect
separate yourself. You have to say 'Do I really care?' They do tend to leave you alone after awhile."

Michael Boyle, a regular VAX2 user and moderator for the Mirror's Babylon BBS says he has seen progress in the past few years since he's worked on another BBS, called Helix On-line, back in Ottawa.

"People on Babylon are pretty civilized and conservative about the language that they use." he says, "On Helix, I was specifically asked to e-mail the female users to ask them to try to participate in a few discussions instead of lurking. We wanted a more diverse environment than just three stupid white males. It worked at first but then the men became more aggressive and the women were flamed."

'Flaming' is a common phenomenon on the Net. Whether you can't spell a word right or you have profound differences of opinion on crucial issues, flaming is next to posting on the Net. No one, except for the lurkers, escapes this phenomenon. For women,there's the added pressure of admitting your gender in a flamewar and the results can be nasty.

MacDonald agrees. She points to flamewars she's gotten into in the past that degenerate into attacks on her gender.

"I've been told 'Maybe you can't figure it out because you're on PMS or something, honey." and then I'd get mad and flame back and feed into the whole PMS argument by acting 'hysterical'.

"They log on thinking that they can intimidate you. Sure I'd get offended at first but now I ignore it." It's still a good way to meet people."

Betty agrees,"You can have a lot of personal exchanges over the Net. I find guys more honest over the computer than in real life. I've even understood how some of my ex-boyfriends felt through talking to some of the guys on the Net. It's nice to see the wall come down."

"But BBSes are all abut flirting," she says, "You might strike up a really good relationship but usually people log on to chat and flirt."

IRC is not the only part of Internet, though. Usenet is a collection of discussions on over 6,000 different topics. It's similar to IRC but one doesn't talk to people directly, giving more time for thought in responding to someone's message.

This is where most women can find some solace on the Net. The groups on Usenet range from soc.feminism and alt.feminism to alt.fan.courtney-love and alt.music.independent.female. Concordia also has some sites dedicated to women's studies.

But in the interactive BBS and IRC zone, female participation leaves much to be desired. Logging onto the "justgirls" channel on IRC, is logging onto a usually dead channel. Meanwhile, all the sex and chat channels are brimming with users, most of them male.

Betty recounts when all the women on IRC got fed up with poor treatment from men on one channel.

"I remember once when we all got into this huge gender .war," recalls Betty. "A lot of people got kicked off and finally all of the girls just switched to a secret channel and initiated our "ignore" and "disable whisper" commands and left the guys stewing in their juices on the public channel while we all held the fort in ours. It was great and they stayed there thinking for awhile but it never happened again.

"But if you still keep exploring you find a haven for yourself in cyberspace. That's what keeps me on."

+++ATH
NO CARRIER

Top ten loser-user come-ons

Don't try this at home.

<RAIDERS> Sexy, can I blow you?

<V> Hey there any horny ladies? Message me!!

<PLASMA> Gender check????

<BONG> I'll slip my cock between those REDLIPS

<RAIDERS> Sexy, I can fuck you all night long, on the floor, bed,...

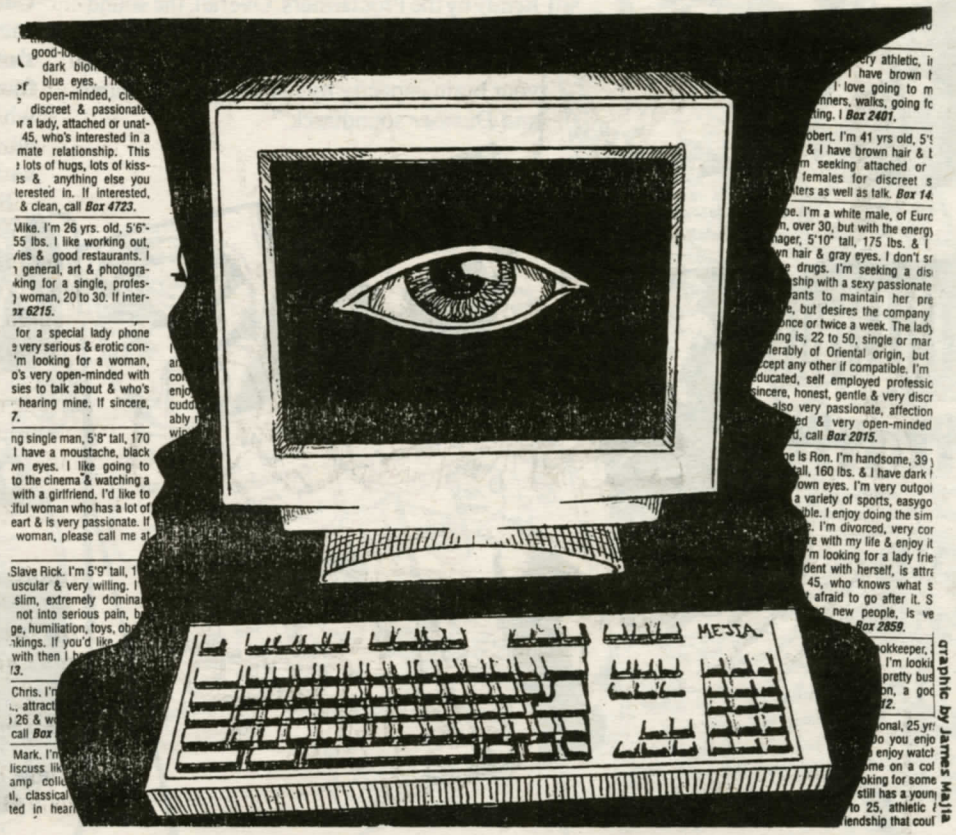
<K-NICE> Steffie, out of curiosity what do you look like? I am half Swedish, half Indian, about 5'9" 185 lbs

<ORION> All women have big tits on IRC

<ORION> Any women in the mood for a great time?

<WONK>Hey, I like 'em 36' 24' 36'

<MONTY>Sit on my face and tell me that you love me.

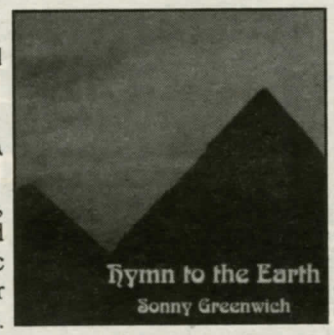


graphic by James Mejia

Spins

Sonny Greenwich & the Universal Language Band
Hymn to the Earth
Kleo Records

by Anuska Garcia



An annual jazzfest favorite, Sonny Greenwich whoop up another & his Universal Language band guitar harmonies, of Eastern/ yummy batch of great acoustic Most of the album tremolos and layer upon layer is instrumental except for the title track. Even Sonny Jr, currently famous for his worldbeat influenced songs. bass stint in locals **Bootsauce**, contributes to Sonny Sr.'s family affair. The album is also faithful to African roots but not in a terribly obvious way when you listen to it. It's mostly easy listening, very lounge sort of laidback rhythms. Don't pass up the opportunity to see them at the next JazzFest.

Luscious Canine w/out
Another luscious lunar birthday - which, i might say - is better than a self-pitying melodrama
HAPPY Bleedin' B-day!
GUINESS
NEWCASTLE
Just me and my friends drinking Guiness celebrating the big '24' AT SPEWS TAVERN
How bloody, mmm... perfect... puff...
Nothing like recognizing my imbred anglo-saxon sheep raising heritage - jolly ole' jolly ole'!
that night i crashed at a friends place downtown
COOL SASH
Strange dreams - riding large poles down the highway - arrested for whoring
Nothing like a lint covered tongue that needs to be hoovered... feeling like i just spent the night being greased with mazola. 24 and a beer gut wiser - not a hell of a lot more - but enough

Various Artists
Dumb and Dumber-Original Motion Picture Soundtrack
BMG

by Danny Chan

Everything Jim Carrey touches is a hit, and *Dumb and Dumber-Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* is no exception. The 13-song soundtrack is mainly a strong, entertaining effort by some of today's hottest recording artists.

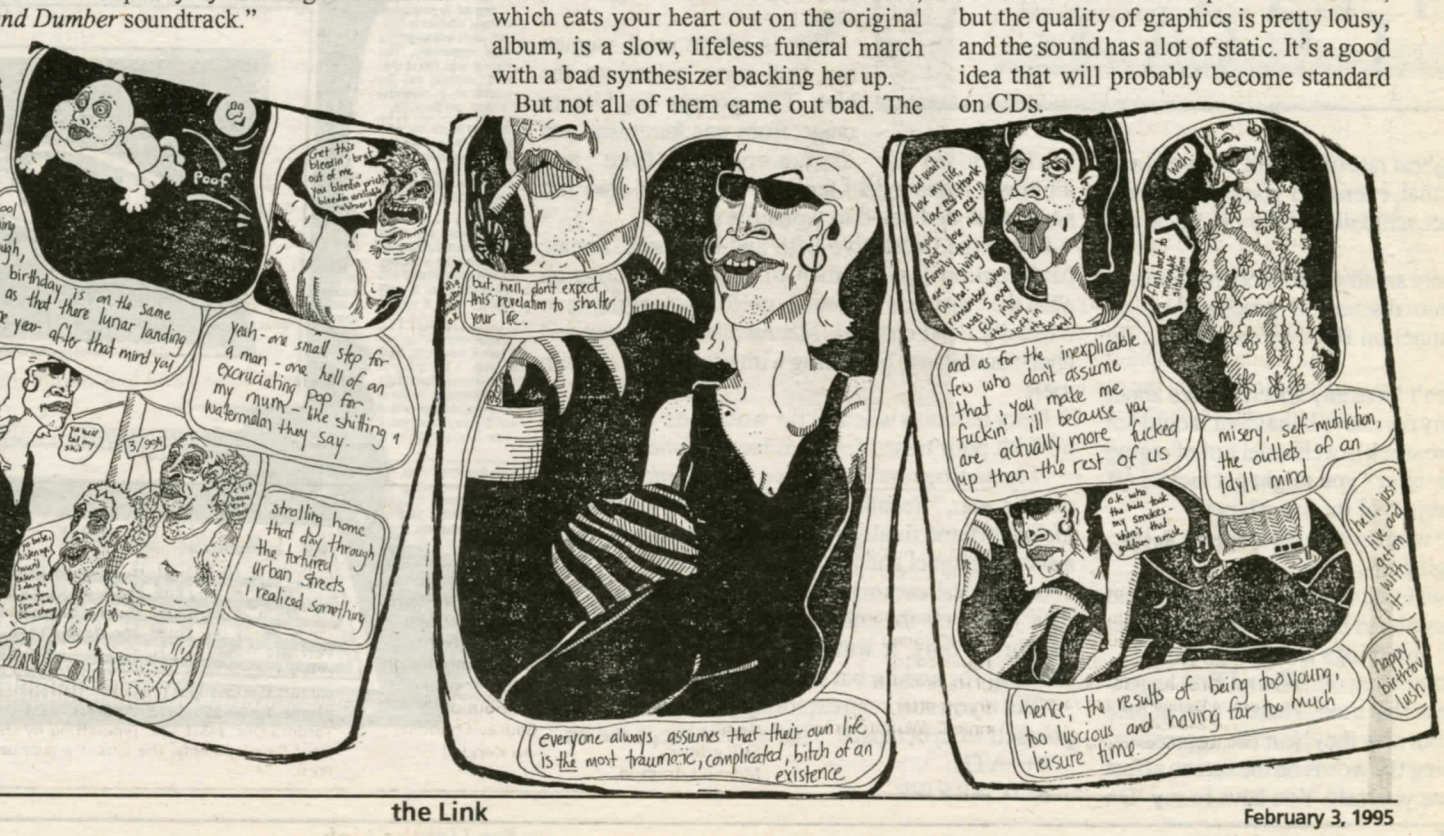
The leadoff cut, *The Ballad of Peter Pumpkinhead* by the Crash Test Dummies, is so damn catchy you'll find yourself humming the tune aloud in spite of yourself (so be careful if you listen in public!). The recently released *New Age Girl* by Deadeye Dick is also a treat.

The reggae Whiney, *Whiney* by Willi One Blood contains samples from "Baby Elephant Walk" and "You Really Got Me." The effect is very amusing, in keeping with the nature of the movie.

Not so hot is *You Sexy Thing* by Deee-Lite; the dance tune just doesn't have a hook.

The soundtrack ends with three straight cuts with guitars so powerful you won't be able to resist playing the ol' air guitar: *Take* by the Lupins, Green Jelly's *The Bear Song*, and *Get Ready* by the Proclaimers. Overall, the soundtrack is worth the time.

Says Jim Carrey, "Like DUHHH, increase your brain capacity by listening to the *Dumb and Dumber* soundtrack."


Poof
Cool thing though, my birthday is on the same day as that there lunar landing - one year after that mind you!
Yeah - one small step for a man - one hell of an excruciating pop for my mum - like shitting a watermelon they say.
strolling home that day through the tortured urban streets i realized something
but, well, don't expect this revelation to shatter your life..
everyone always assumes that their own life is the most traumatic, complicated, bitch of an existence
and as for the inexplicable few who don't assume that, you make me fuckin' ill because you are actually more fucked up than the rest of us
misery, self-mutilation, the outlets of an idyll mind
hence, the results of being too young, too luscious and having far too much leisure time.
happy birthday lush

Cheap stuff

compiled by mr Miser, Jon Richler

•The **Dans La Rue benefit concert** is happening Friday and Saturday, at Graffitti. **$8** for both nights, **$5** for one. Friday: Nomad Mabo, Major Threat, Self Control + Ripcordz. Saturday: Adrift, Impact, Backstabs, Corrupted Reputation + The Vagabonds. All benefits go to Dans La Rue. 1415 St. Laurent.

•The Russian film ***Anna: 6-18***, is being shown at Cinema Parallele from Feb 2-Mar 6. Running times are 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 PM. It's a steal at **$6**. 3682 St. Laurent. 843-6001.

•**A Giant History Of Loony Tunes**, brought to you by Reg Hartt, at the Rialto. Fri - Sun, Feb. 10-12. 4 hours for **$8**, all the stuff you apparently missed as a kid. 5723 Parc. 272-3899.

•**Gallery R.A.G.S.** is showing works by youths of Mtl. community centres, Mon - Wed, Sat, from 10 AM - 5PM, and Thu - Fri, 10AM-9PM. 4358 Cote-des-Neiges. 989-8760.

•Giraffe Gallery is showing off some cool **African art**. A collection of masks, statues + artifacts from Western and Central Africa. Its free, and you'll find it at 3997 St-Denis. 499-8436. **Free**

•The **Visual Arts Show in Celebration of Black History Month** is happening at Gallery Artkore, Wed - Sun, 1-5 PM. Go to 265 St. Antoine, #200. 878-1024. **Free**.

•Until Mar 31, see "**objects from...** Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali". Plus there's "Secret objects, Sacred objects": traditional African Art. From Tue - Sat, 11 AM - 6PM. 1268B Sherbrooke W. 989-5571. **Free**

•Also in this motif, go see **Sheilds and ritual arms** of the Fangs and Kubas of East Africa. Thu - Sat, 1 - 5 PM. 2157 Mackay. 842-6369. **Free**.

•Hey! get up off your feet and go **Flamenco loco**! On Thursdays you get dance, guitar and singing. 9:30 PM at Nahualt, 4615 St. Laurent. 849-9130. **$3**.

•Want to hear some poetry from **Leah Libin**? Go to Cafe Kaballah on Wed, Feb 8, 9PM. 68 Duluth E., 284-6642. **Free, dammit**.

•Then there's always Sid Zamforlin's **BUZZ**, happening every Thursday at the Hive, Loyola Campus Centre. Live performances, music, pictures, cheap booze. **ABSOLUUUUTELY FREE**. 697-3007.

Sarah McLachlan
The Freedom Sessions
Nettwerk Records

by Paul Hainsworth

I loved Fumbling Towards Ecstasy, Sarah McLachlan's last album. I guess she did too, 'cause she decided to do a "cover album" of some of its songs.

The Freedom Sessions takes seven tracks from Fumbling and redoes them acoustically. A kind of unplugged session, but some of the songs sound like someone should have been unplugged before they found themselves on this album. *Hold On*, which eats your heart out on the original album, is a slow, lifeless funeral march with a bad synthesizer backing her up.

But not all of them came out bad. The newer version of *Elsewhere* is less powerful but more whimsical than the previous. *Plenty* sounds completely different from the original.

In fact, most of the songs are completely different than the last album, making this like a whole different disc altogether.

The most remarkable part of the whole thing is the gee-whiz CD-ROM track, playable on both Macintosh and Windows. It includes pics of McLachlan and band shots, sound bites of Sarah philosophizing about her music, touring, song writing, and sound clips of the album.

The real-time video clips of her are novel, but the quality of graphics is pretty lousy, and the sound has a lot of static. It's a good idea that will probably become standard on CDs.

Concordia hosts Theresa Humes tourney

by Danny Chan

The biggest test for Concordia's women's hockey team comes this weekend when the Stingers host the 27th annual Theresa Humes Women's Hockey Tournament.

"It invites the best U.S. and Canadian university teams so it's really a North American-type championship. There's no other tournament that combines university teams of this calibre together at the same time," said Concordia assistant coach Julie Healy.

Healy also believes that the eight-team tourney is instrumental for player development on the Stingers team.

"This is one of the few elite international experiences. It's essential in the development of our student-athletes that are coming up," said Healy. "I think this tournament and the teams that are involved in it are essential to the development of women's hockey in both countries."

The round robin tourney attracts some of the top university teams, including the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières Patriotes, the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, the University of New Hampshire Wildcats, and the Queen's Golden Gaels.

American teams dominated the Theresa Humes Tournament for years until Concordia captured the tournament championship in 1993; the Stingers repeated as champions again last year.

Healy said the team's withdrawal from league competition this year is not an ideal situation but it allows the coaching staff to maintain greater rein over player development.

"We've been able to structure our schedule this year to meet the needs of how our team needs to develop," said Healy. "When you play in a league you can't control your schedule."

The weekend's tournament is the highlight of the women's hockey season, but this may be the last year it holds such significance. The Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union—the national athletic governing body—is considering recognizing the sport.

"That's our ultimate goal. That's what we've been working towards at Concordia for a number of years. Having spoken with McGill and Trois-Rivières, they would like to achieve that as well," said Healy.

The 27th annual Theresa Humes Women's Hockey Tournament starts today at 2:30 p.m. at Loyola Rink and lasts until the championship game Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The Stingers face the Queen's Golden Gaels this evening at 8:30 p.m.

STANDINGS

Men's Hockey

Team	GP	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
1. UQTR	19	15	1	3	115	46	33
2. Ottawa	18	11	5	2	72	44	24
3. Concordia	**17**	**8**	**6**	**3**	**55**	**64**	**19**
4. McGill	18	8	9	1	75	74	17

CIAU Men's basketball

Team
1. Brandon Bobcats
2. Alberta Golden Bears
3. McMaster Marauders
4. Victoria Vikings
5. Winnipeg Wesmen
6. Concordia Stingers
7. Brock Badgers
8. Laurentian Voyageurs
9. Ryerson Rams
10. Guelph Gryphons

Analyzing the Canadian media

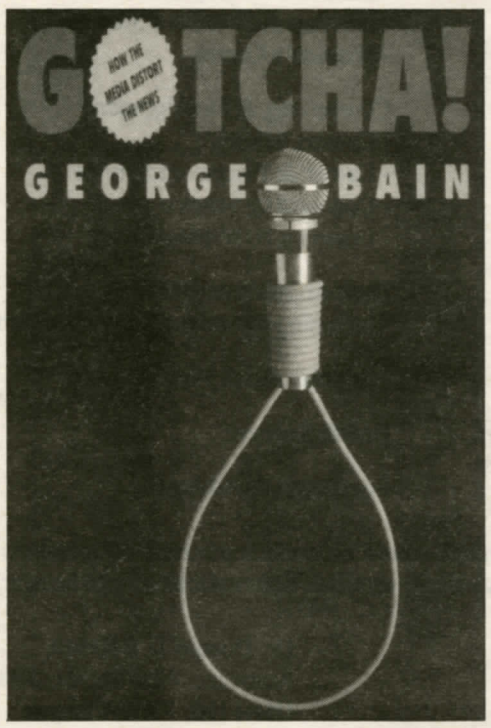
by Ellen Chen

The media and politics- a match made in heaven...or hell depending on which side of the fence you're on. According to longtime journalist turned author, George Bain, the combination is a complicated and often tainted one.

Bain's latest book, **Gotcha!**, is an expression of his stance on the media and its effects in shaping our outlook on the Canadian government. He explores some of the ways in which the media manipulates and curbs the public's perception of politics, amongst other things. Throughout the book, Bain remains highly critical and skeptical of the media's attempts at juggling the balancing act between fact, fiction, and entertainment. By bringing to light the fine line existing between the three, he makes it difficult for the reader NOT to walk away a newly converted skeptic, or a more strongly acute skeptic, depending on your own views. At any rate, Bain succeeds in skillfully making his points blaringly clear.

He manages to achieve this clarity by focusing on the media coverage of a particular event, breaking it into pieces, deciphering what was actually said, and how the message was conveyed in the finale. He brings attention to the reader the distortion between what was used to begin with and the distortion of the information presented in the end.

For instance, the very first chapter aptly titled the "Political Laboratory", Bain takes a look at the 'Prime Time Election Town Hall' that aired on television a while back on the CBC, hosted by news anchor Pamela Wallin. The proposed goal of the event was to provide the average Canadian with a means to air opinions and questions directed to those in office, concerning the way they thought the country was being governed. A face to face discussion with the policy makers; a real chance to "listen" to the concerns of the people who elected them into office in the first place. A let's-try-to-work-things-out-eh?-approach. A political showdown of sorts.



Wallin's opening question for the panel, Bain is quick to point out, was more accusatory than it was probing. She wanted to know "just one way which your party will turn this (negative) perception around so it looks to Canadians as if you are serving our interest and not simply serving your own.". Hmm...perhaps not the wisest way to begin an opening discussion geared to create understanding and maybe uncover possible solutions to long existing societal and political concerns.

During the course of the question period, "Wallin stalked her showring, ensuring with little flicks of her whip" neither the politicians nor the public strayed too far from the task at hand...which was what? Oh. Oh yeah, getting "in as many questions as we can"? It seems as though Wallin was the one who strayed the furthest from the original purpose of the show. Instead of discussing the issues that mattered and actually exploring them (the supposed goal of the public forum in the first place), Wallin was more concerned with getting the public to air as many complaints as possible.

Bain wonders how finding the answers to issues of great concern has anything to do with airing as many complaints as their prime time slots allow. The panel appeared to have gotten lost amongst the slanted and loaded statements being made, statements no doubt, intended to feed some public hostility. After all, hostility causes controversy, controversy causes ratings, and ratings means money. The problem with the "town hall gimmick...is precisely that it is a gimmick". The let's-talk-about-it-approach became impossible as "the participants- the prosecutors- asserted rather than asked; they knew rather than wanted to know.". The verdict? A complete waste of time. The gimmick of having a discussion panel as an approach to "grass-roots" politics, though appealing, failed miserably. Bain illustrates the failure by inspection of the dialogue and events. He adds his dark humor and wit to accentuate his point, and does so successfully.

Bain's critique of his colleagues' work is refreshing, insightful, and biting. He successfully illustrates the metamorphosis of information from factual evidence to "interpretive reporting"- a bad habit the Canadian press has acquired from their peers south of the border.

Gotcha! How The Media Distorts The News
George Bain
Key Porter Books
$26.95

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CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE (CCSL)
REVIEW OF STUDENT SERVICES

CCSL has established a special committee to undertake a comprehensive review of Student Services at the University.

The following areas comprise student services:

1. Advocacy & Support Services
   - Campus Ministry
   - International Students' Office
   - Legal Information
   - Liaison with Daycares
   - Services for disabled Students
   - Women's Centre
2. Counselling & Development
   - Careers Library
   - Career & Placement Service
   - Counselling Service
   - Learning & Writing Centre
3. Dean of Students Office
   - including the orientation programme and student residences
4. Financial Aid & Awards
5. Health Services
6. Recreation & Athletics

The review committee would welcome input from all members of the University community on any aspect of the above-noted services. Submissions should be sent, no later than 15 March 1995, to:

Dr. Donald L. Boisvert
Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Student Life)
GM-1100, SGW Campus

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